

Reading Standard

Articulated by Grade Level

GLOSSARY

The purpose of this glossary is to help the user better understand and implement the Reading Standard. It is not intended to be a study guide for the AIMS and is not a comprehensive list of all literacy terms.

adage	a saying that conveys a common experience or general truth and has gained credit through extended use (e.g., a stitch in time saves nine)
affix	a non-word letter or group of letters attached to a root or stem to change its meaning or function, as the prefix <i>ad-</i> and the suffix <i>-ing</i> in <i>adjoining</i>
allegory	a literary work with two or more levels of meaning: one literal level and one or more symbolic or figurative levels; events, settings, objects, or characters that stand for ideas or qualities beyond themselves
alliteration	the repetition of consonant sounds, usually at the beginning of words
allusion	a reference to a well-known work of literature, famous person, or historical event with which the reader is assumed to be familiar
analogy	a partial similarity between two things that are otherwise dissimilar; a pairing of words designed to elicit associations between concepts and background knowledge
anecdotal evidence	evidence based on a brief story told to make a point or to entertain
antonym	a word opposite in meaning to another (e.g., <i>wet</i> and <i>dry</i>)
argument	a type of writing that develops a topic in a logical and persuasive manner
aside	a statement delivered by an actor to an audience in such a way that other characters on stage are presumed not to hear what is said; the character reveals his or her private thoughts, reactions, or motivations
assonance	the repetition of vowel sounds in stressed syllables or words without repeating consonant sounds
automaticity	the ability to read silently or orally without stopping to use decoding strategies on unknown words
ballad	a narrative poem, often of folk origin and intended to be sung; consists of simple stanzas, usually with a refrain
bandwagon	a persuasive technique that attempts to get people to follow the crowd using the logical fallacy that, since “everyone else likes it”, it must be good
base word	a word to which affixes may be added to change its meaning, tense, or part of speech
bias	the writer’s outlook or prejudice; the writer’s leaning or belief about a topic
cause and effect	a strategy for analyzing a subject by examining the reasons for specific actions or events (cause) and the consequences or results of certain causes (effect)

central argument	the main point or purpose of a piece of writing, often stated in a thesis statement or topic sentence
character foil	a character that provides a contrast to another character, thus intensifying the impact of that other character
characterization	the manner in which an author presents a character by using the character's actions, dialogue, description, or how other characters react to that character
cinquain	a five line stanza with successive lines of two, four, six, eight, and two syllables
circular reasoning	supporting a position by merely restating it
compare	to use examples to show how things are similar and different, with the greater emphasis on similarities
compare (contrast)	a strategy for thinking or writing that involves explaining, defining, or evaluating subjects by showing how they resemble and differ from each other or from some standard for evaluation
conceit	an elaborate and extended metaphor, especially in poetic images
conflict	the problem(s) or struggle(s) between or among opposing forces that trigger(s) the action in literature (e.g., person vs. person, person vs. self, person vs. nature, person vs. society)
connotation/ connotative	an association that a word calls to mind in addition to its dictionary or literal meaning
consonance	the repetition of consonant sounds within and at the end of words (e.g., stroke of <u>l</u> uck)
consumer publications	publications for the use of the general public (e.g., periodicals, pamphlets, advertisements)
contrast	to use examples to show how things are different in one or more important ways
credibility	quality or power of inspiring belief; capacity for believability
denotation/denotative	the literal or standard dictionary meaning of a word
digraph	two letters representing a single speech sound (e.g., ph in phone)
diphthong	a speech sound beginning with one vowel sound and moving to another vowel sound within the same syllable (e.g., oi in oil)
e.g.	(abbreviation for <i>for example</i>) precedes a non-exhaustive list of examples provided as options; other examples may be appropriate but not included[compare to i.e.]

elegy	a song or poem written as a lament for the dead
epic	a narrative poem, usually about the adventures and heroic deeds of a folk hero (e.g., Homer's <i>Illiad</i>)
equivocation	language that is open to interpretation; often deliberately misleading
etymology	the history of words; the study of the history of words
euphemism	A mild or indirect term that is used in place of one considered harsh or blunt (e.g., <i>passed away</i> instead of <i>died</i>)
evidence	statements or information that help in making a conclusion or judgment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • logical evidence - based on earlier known or well-known information presented in a clear organized pattern • empirical evidence- information or facts gained by observation or experiment based on scientific analysis • anecdotal evidence - information gained from casual observation, usually presented in a narrative style
expository text	writing that explains or informs through the use of facts, reasons, or examples
fable	a short narrative that teaches a moral or lesson; main characters are usually animals that speak and act like humans
fact	a statement that can be verified as true
fairy tale	a fanciful tale about real life problems, usually with imaginary characters such as fairies, trolls, or leprechauns
fallacious reasoning	reasoning that is deceptive or liable to mislead
false causality	the error of concluding that an event is caused by another event simply because it follows it
fantasy	a highly imaginative story characterized by fanciful or supernatural elements
figurative language	the use of words to create vivid pictures and ideas in the mind of the reader; not meant to be literally true (e.g., similes, metaphors, idioms, personification)
flashback	an account of a conversation, episode, or event that happened before the beginning of a story, told for the purpose of clarifying something in the present; often interrupts the chronological flow of the story
fluency	read with ease, expression, and automaticity to support comprehension
folktale	a narrative piece (e.g., epic, legend, myth, fable) that is part of the oral or written tradition of a culture passed from generation to generation
footnotes	the numbered notes or comments at the bottom or side of a page that comments on a designated part of the text
foreshadowing	writer's use of hints or clues to indicate events that will occur later in a text
free verse	a style of poetry that has an irregular rhyme or line pattern; verse that is developed according to author's own style

functional text	printed material that is specifically intended to convey information (e.g., instructions, technical manuals, labels, signs, recipes)
genre	a category or type of literature based on its style, form, and content (e.g., mystery, adventure, romance, science fiction)
grapheme	written representation of a phoneme (e.g., b for /b/, ck for /k/)
graphic features	features within or accompanying text, that help to clarify or explain the text (e.g., labels, illustrations, captions, headings, diagrams, charts, tables, titles)
graphic organizer	a visual representation of information in an organized manner that is intended to enhance understanding (e.g., Venn diagram, T-graph, word web, KWL chart)
haiku	a style of Japanese poetry consisting of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables, traditionally about nature or the seasons
historical fiction	a long narrative that recreates an historical period or event based on fact, but embellished with imagined conversation and details
homographs	words with the same spelling but with different pronunciations and meanings (e.g., wind, read, bow)
homonyms/homophones	words with the same pronunciation but with different meanings, different parts of speech, and usually different spelling
hyperbole	figure of speech in which the truth is exaggerated for emphasis or humor
i.e.	(abbreviation for <i>that is</i>) precedes a specific list of items in which all of the items should be used [compare to e.g.]
idiom	phrase or expression that means something different from what the words actually say; usually understandable to a particular culture, language, or group of people (e.g., <i>let the cat out of the bag</i>)
imagery	descriptive language used in literature to recreate sensory experiences, enrich writing, and to make the writing more vivid; sensory details
incongruities	text or portions of text having inconsistent or inharmonious parts or elements
inflectional endings	see <i>suffix</i>
inference	a conclusion derived from facts or premises
intonation	the distinctive patterns of rising and falling pitch that enhances the meaning of spoken words
irony	using a word or phrase to mean the exact opposite of its literal meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dramatic irony - where the reader or the audience sees a character's mistakes, but the character does not • verbal irony - where the writer says one thing and means another • irony of situation - where there is a great difference between the purpose of an action and the result

learning log	a student's record of his/her own learning activities, intended to help evaluate his/her own learning and to plan future learning
legend	a traditional, historical story of a culture passed from generation to generation
limerick	a light, humorous, five-line verse with an <i>aabba</i> rhyme pattern
linguistic roots	the origin of a word based on the nature, structure, and history of the word
literal language	language that is true to fact, avoiding exaggeration or metaphor
literal meaning	the actual or dictionary meaning of a word or phrase; language that means exactly what it appears to mean
loaded words	words that are slanted for or against a topic; words with strong positive or negative connotations
logic/logical evidence	the science of correct reasoning; correctly using facts, examples, and reasons to support one's view
lyric	a short poem that expresses personal feelings or emotions, often in a songlike style or form
main idea	the concept, thought, notion, or impression that is of greatest importance or influence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literal – adhering to fact or to the primary meaning or intent • implied –a suggested meaning or intent (as opposed to explicit) • explicit – fully revealed or expressed without vagueness, implication, or ambiguity; leaving no question as to the meaning or intent
main character	a character that plays a prominent role in a literary work
metacognitive strategy	the technique or strategy of examining one's own thinking process; awareness of one's own thinking process in order to monitor and direct the process to a desired end
metaphor	a figure of speech that compares two unlike things in which no word of comparison is used
meter	the arrangement of words in a rhythmical pattern, with stressed and unstressed syllables
minor character	a character that plays a role of lesser importance to the plot than the main character(s)
mood	the feeling(s) the text arouses in the reader (e.g., happiness, sadness, sorrow, peacefulness)
moral	the particular value or lesson the author attempts to convey to the reader
myth	a traditional or legendary story that deals with supernatural beings, ancestors, or heroes; intended to explain the mysteries of the natural world, or the customs or ideals of a society
narrative/narration	a type of fiction or nonfiction that tells a story or series of events
onomatopoeia	the use of a word whose pronunciation suggests its meaning (e.g., meow, buzz)

onsets	consonant(s) before the vowel(s) in a syllable, including consonant blends and digraphs (e.g., /s/ in sit, /spl/ in split)
opinion	a belief or conclusion not supported by evidence or facts
organization of text	format or structure; often varies with type of text, but common patterns exist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chronological order - details are arranged in the order in which they happen • order of importance - details are arranged in order of importance: least important to most important or most important to least important • cause-effect - details are arranged to show connections between a result and the events that preceded it • comparison-contrast - details are arranged to show similarities and differences between two or more subjects • listing - details are arranged in a simple list • classification - details are placed into categories • problem-solution - details are arranged to show a problem and then a way to solve the problem • spatial - details are arranged geographically from left to right, right to left, top to bottom, and so on • mixed - some details are arranged one way, and other details are arranged in another way
overgeneralization	an assumption that <u>all</u> members of a group, nationality, race, or gender have the characteristics observed in some members
oversimplification	the use of language which makes something far simpler than it is, to the point of distorting the meaning (e.g., “ <i>It’s not so bad...</i> ”)
overstatement	a statement that represents something as more than it actually is (e.g., “ <i>I have a million things to do today.</i> ”)
pacing	the reading speed or rate at which text is read
paradox	a statement that seems to be contradictory but that actually presents a truth
parody	a form of literature that intentionally uses a comic effect to mock a literary work or style
peer pressure	a persuasive technique in which the reader is pressured to think or act a particular way so as to be accepted by one’s peers
personification	a figure of speech in which something non-human is given human characteristics or powers
persuasive techniques	devices of persuasion used for the purpose of changing one’s mind, making one take action, or both; usually accomplished by a combination of emotional appeals and logical reasoning (see <i>bandwagon, peer pressure, circular reasoning, oversimplification, transfer, loaded words, testimonial, false causality, overgeneralization, oversimplification</i>)
phoneme	the smallest unit of sound within a word that distinguishes one word from another (e.g., cat = /c/ /a/ /t/)
phonemic awareness	the awareness of and the ability to manipulate sounds in the spoken word

phonogram	a spelling pattern, word family, or rime (e.g., –ame, -ack, -ay, -in)
plot	<p>the action or sequence of related events that make up a story, consisting of five basic elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exposition – the opening of a short story up to the point that the conflict is introduced to the reader • rising action – the chain of events in which the conflicts intensify • climax – the point of highest interest; point at which the reader makes his greatest emotional response; the point in the story in which rising action is about to turn into falling action • falling action – takes place after the climax when the action begins to wind down or conflicts begin to lessen • resolution – tells how the story conflict is resolved and ties up loose ends from the story
poetry	the expression of traditionally rhythmic compositions (sometimes rhymed, expressing ideas, experiences, or emotions) in a style more concentrated, imaginative, and powerful than that of ordinary speech or prose; generally categorized into specific forms based on purpose (e.g., elegies, ballads, parodies) and/or meter or rhyme scheme (e.g., sonnets, limericks, cinquains, free verse, haikus)
point of view	<p>the perspective from which the story is told:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first person – the narrator is a character who tells the story as he or she experienced, saw, heard, and understood it; identified by the first person pronouns <i>I</i> or <i>we</i> • third person omniscient – the narrator is all-knowing, with the ability to see into the minds of more than one character • third person limited - the narrator has the ability to see into the mind of only one character
prefix	a linguistic unit added to the beginning of a word which changes its meaning (i.e., re-, mis-, un-)
primary source	an original source that informs directly, not through another person’s explanation or interpretation (e.g., firsthand reports, diaries, letters, journals, original documents)
print concepts	<p>the prerequisite skills students need about print as they learn how to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • book handling (e.g., front of book, print contains meaning, left page before right) • directional behavior (e.g., where to start, left to right, return sweep) • visual scanning and analysis • language concepts (e.g., meaning of punctuation marks, capital letters) • hierarchal concepts (e.g., word by word matching, difference between letter and word)
prior knowledge	knowledge gained from previous experience(s)
prose	written or spoken language that is not poetry (verse)
prosody	the rhythmic and inflectional aspect of language; expression

r-controlled vowels	a vowel whose sound is influenced by an r that directly follows it (e.g., <i>farm</i> , <i>her</i> , <i>first</i> , <i>torn</i> , <i>nurse</i>)
redundancy	repetition that is needless or distracting
repetition	repeating a word, phrase, sentence, or the like for impact and effect
rhetoical device	literary device that is intended to emphasize a point, not to obtain a response
rhyme	identical or very similar recurring final sounds in words within, or more frequently, at the ends of lines of verse
rhythm	a pattern of repeated cadence or accent in speech or text
rhimes	the vowel(s) and any following consonant(s) in a syllable (e.g., /it/ in <i>sit</i> , /oat/ in <i>float</i>)
root	in a complex word, the meaningful base form after all affixes are removed
root word	meaningful base form after all affixes are removed
satire	a literary technique that combines a critical attitude with humor, often with the intent of correcting or changing the subject of the satire
search engine	computer software used to search data for specified information
secondary source	a source that contains information others have gathered and interpreted; indirect or secondhand information (e.g., newspaper and magazine accounts, encyclopedia articles, research studies, web sites, documentaries)
sequencing	the arrangement or ordering of subject matter to aid understanding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developmental • chronological • easy to difficult (difficult to easy) • part to whole (whole to part)
setting	the time of day or year; historical period, place, situation
simile	figure of speech comparing two things that are unlike; uses the words <i>like</i> and <i>as</i> (e.g., <i>as strong as an ox</i> , <i>flies like an eagle</i>)
soliloquy	lines in a drama in which a character reveals his or her thoughts to the audience, but not to the other characters, by speaking as if to himself or herself
sonnet	a poem consisting of 14 lines with a formal rhyme scheme, which expresses a thought or feeling in a unified way
stylistic elements	components of a distinctive manner of expression; elements that comprise a literary style
suffix	a linguistic unit added to the end of a base word which changes the word's meaning or grammatical function (e.g., -ed, -ly, -ness)

symbol	person, place, or thing that represents something beyond itself (e.g., sword can stand for war, a desert might represent loneliness or solitude, a dove as a symbol of peace)
symbolism	a literary technique in which an author uses symbols to represent concrete ideas, events, or relationships
synonym	one of two or more words that have a highly similar meaning (e.g., <i>grip</i> and <i>grasp</i>)
syntax	the study of sentence structure with emphasis on the grammatical relationships of the words and other elements
testimonial	a persuasive technique in which a personal success story is used to influence others
text features	components that support and clarify text (e.g., illustrations, titles, topic sentences, key words)
theme	the underlying idea or statement that the author is trying to convey
tone	the overall feeling or effect created by a writer's use of words (e.g., playful, serious, bitter, angry, sarcastic)
transfer	a persuasive technique that attempts to transfer positive feelings associated with images not necessarily related to the issue (e.g., a fabric softener advertisement set in beautiful, clear mountain scenery, implying freshness)
understatement	a statement that represents something as less than it actually is (e.g., <i>The hurricane was a little windy.</i>)
workplace documents	text, forms, or documents specifically used in the workplace or for business purposes (e.g., memos, business letters, applications, resumes, e-mails)